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Media Release

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**Secretary Thornburgh to
testify on need for election reform**

Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh has been invited by Congressman Robert Ney of Ohio to testify on the need for election reform following the November 7, 2000 election. Secretary Thornburgh will join Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, Arkansas Secretary of State Sharon Priest, and New Mexico Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron in Washington, DC to testify before the United States House Committee on House Administration on Wednesday, April 25 at 10:00 am Eastern Standard Time at the Longworth House Office Building.

Secretary Thornburgh will represent the State of Kansas and the National Association of Secretaries of State in his role as President-elect of the organization. In his remarks, he will stress the need and importance for election reform in America.

"The November election may not have been pretty, and the results may not have come quickly, but quick fixes and convenience are not the measure of democracy," said Thornburgh. "However, even though the system worked, America's confidence in our system has been shaken and we must take this opportunity to fundamentally improve our electoral system. From the courthouse to the White House, now is the time to act," said Thornburgh.

"We have the chance to provide equal protection for voters. We have the chance to create uniform voluntary standards for voting. We have the chance to improve the reliability of voter registration records. We have the duty to restore America's confidence," concluded Thornburgh.

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Ron Thornburgh is the 29th Kansas Secretary of State. Ron currently serves as President-elect of the National Association of Secretaries of State. Ron is a native of Burlingame, Kansas. He graduated from Washburn University of Topeka, Kansas in 1985. Ron, his wife Annette and sons Grey and Tanner live in Topeka.